

Burden Iron Company: Office Building
West end of Polk Street
Troy
Rensselaer County
New York

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PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

BURDEN IRON COMPANY: OFFICE BUILDING
HAER No. NY-79

Location: West end of Polk Street
Troy, Rensselaer County, New York
UTM: 18.606510. 4729200 (Troy South)

Date of Construction: 1881-82

Present owner: Republic Steel Corporation

Present use: Warehouse for machinery parts and
miscellaneous storage.

Significance: Only significant surviving structure
of the Burden Company

Historians: Richard J. Pollock
Robert M. Vogel
August 1969

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National Park Service, name of historian, date of report.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Character: A moderately decorative, office building in the "Queen Anne" manner.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor; interior gutted.

B. Detailed Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 60' by 40' (structure not measured).
2. Layout, shape: One-story, Greek cross plan.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: Red brick in running bond, laid in red mortar. Brick quoining. Floral, classical-revival detailing on the entrance wall and Ionic pilaster capitals of light red sandstone.
4. Structural system: Brick bearing walls; wooden roof framing.
5. Stoop: A light red sandstone stoop at the main (east) entrance.
6. Chimneys: Three brick neo-Tudor chimneys from fireplaces that formerly heated the rooms. All mantels and other interior details have been removed.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doors and doorways: Wooden door frames with non-original wooden doors.
 - b. Windows: Wooden window frames within brick, round arches, one-over-one double-hung sashes. The semi-circular fanlight areas subdivided into small, square panes. The sills are of light red sandstone.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: Cruciform, hipped roof, shingled with asphalt. The north and south arms have a gabled dormer at each end and a skylight at the peak.

- b. Cornice and eaves: Brick cornices; galvanized metal eaves.
- c. Cupola: Red-painted, galvanized iron, louvered cupola at crossing, with ogee roof and bulbous finial.

C. Site and Surroundings:

The office building is located at the Burden Company's former Lower or Steam Works, occupied in 1862. All that remains today of the operations there, besides the office building, are two or three nondescript brick storage buildings and the 1925 blast furnace now operated by Republic Steel. The remainder of the site has been cleared and is occupied by piles of raw material for the furnace and piles of the small pigs of iron that are its product.

The Upper and Water Works is today totally abandoned, its rather pleasantly parklike atmosphere broken by an occasional ruin of one of the once numerous brick buildings. The site of the famed waterwheel is identifiable only by the pit, excavated from the native stone, in which the lower part of the wheel worked, and the brick penstock outlet sixty feet above.

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August 1969

PROJECT INFORMATION

These records were prepared as part of the Mohawk-Hudson Area Survey, a pilot study for the Historic American Engineering Record which was established in 1969 under the aegis of the Historic American Buildings Survey. The project was sponsored jointly by the National Park Service (Historic American Buildings Survey), the Smithsonian Institution (National Museum of History and Technology), the American Society of Civil Engineers (National Headquarters and Mohawk-Hudson Section), and the New York State Historic Trust. The field work and historical research were conducted under the general direction of Robert M. Vogel, Curator of Mechanical and Civil Engineering, Smithsonian Institution; James C. Massey, Chief, Historic American Buildings Survey; and Richard J. Pollak, Professor of Architecture, Ball State University, Project Supervisor; and with the cooperation of the Department of Architecture, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.